

Book Notes

(mostly on Practical Theology)

A number of books take up the theme of Christian involvement in the world for which Rev. S. B. Joshua has pleaded (with regard to theological education) in the second article in this number. From India, as part of the National Bible Study Programme, comes the Bible Study Outline, *Christ and the Hungry Ones*, prepared by V. R. Wishart and G. R. Karat (price 25P., from Y.W.C.A., I.S.S.U., A.I.C.U.F., S.C.M., Y.M.C.A. and N.C.C.). This excellent outline for group study gives relevant Bible passages, brief but pointed exposition and comment, and questions for discussion on the practical themes of the world's food problem, economic justice and the "redemptive action of God to save the Hungry Ones."

Also from India, the Handbook of the Triennial Conference of the S.C.M. December 1966, entitled *Christian Presence in Modern Life* gives discrediting study papers and questions for discussion on the meaning of "Presence", Prayer, the Renewal of the University, the Secular State, Science. These Bible Studies are well worth the attention of groups who could not attend the Triennial.

Some of these emphases are given an experimental liturgical expression in *The Communion in Coventry Cathedral* (Hodder & Stoughton, 3sh. 6d.), and also from abroad, *Christianity in its Social Context* (ed. G. Irvine, S.P.C.K. pp. 128, 19sh. 6d.) presents a symposium of nine essays on the Sociology of Christian Formulations in respect of the Liturgy, Music, Church Architecture, Religious Literature, and Christian Morality and Theology. Fascinating to an English reader, these papers are perhaps, in their application, limited to that country.

For the increasing number of postgraduate students in Theology (and indeed in other fields) Father Dominic's *Methodology of Study and Scientific Work* (2nd revd. ed., St. Joseph's Pontifical Seminary, Alwaye, price not stated) is to be highly recommended. It deals with the whole field, from study habits and methods to techniques of thesis preparation and publication. Naturally the book has a Roman Catholic emphasis in its bibliographies and approach, but is of value to all advanced students, with much down-to-earth practical advice in its 300 odd pages.

The concrete working of theological colleges and some valuable reflections on their task are contained in the World

Council of Church's publication, Ministry VII, *Theological Education in North East Asia*, being a summary report of the Seoul Consultation of December 1966, whose papers were published in full in the volume, *Theological Education for Ministry* (Presbyterian Book Room, Taiwan). The latter will be more fully reviewed in a later issue of this Journal.

From the Tyndale Press, London, comes *The Preacher's Workshop* by John Wood (pp. 64, 3sh. 6d.)—a series of seven studies in the practical business of preparing a sermon, especially an expository sermon. The book contains many helpful suggestions which if accepted and acted upon by ministers should equip them to be better preachers.

Not a few are experimenting with drama as a vehicle for the Gospel, and a valuable contribution in this field is *Open Wide the Door* by Miss Joyce M. Peel (Christian Literature Society, Madras, Rs. 1.25). This is a play about the conversion of Cornelius, which was so well received when produced at the U.T.C. Bangalore that there was a request for a repeat performance. The author has succeeded in presenting effectively the tension between traditional religious attitudes and the spirit of Jesus Christ, and the final victory of the latter.

Again from the Tyndale Press is *Religious Thinking and Religious Education*, a Critique of the Research and Conclusions of Dr. R. Goldman, by K. G. Howkins (pp. 48, price 3 sh.). Those who have been inspired and convinced by Dr. Goldman's timely bold and helpful research and conclusions will be distressed to read such a narrow critique. Dr. Goldman's words are often completely misunderstood and theories built upon these misunderstandings which Dr. Goldman himself would be the first to repudiate.

Two of the recent U.S.C.L. (Lutterworth Press) "Key Books" with an Africon background may have some interest for church youth groups and other young people. *Answer My Question, Please*, ed. by Gabriel M. Setiloane (price 2sh. 6d.) deals pithily at an elementary level with teenager's questions about God and Man, Politics, Marriage and other topics. *Out of Africa* by David Livingstone (price 2sh. 6d.) is a brief account of African Christians, devoting (disproportionately?) five chapters to saints of the early North African Church from Origen to Augustine, and one to Modern African Christians.

Finally, in the vital area of stewardship, we now have a further booklet by Paul R. Lindholm, *Principles and Practice of Christian Stewardship* (Christian Literature Press, pp. 38, price 50P.). This contains twelve Bible Lessons on the theme, with several questions for discussion on each lesson, and would be useful in Stewardship Training Courses.